

NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE

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March 13, 1943.

Office of Defense Transportation
Interstate Commerce Commission Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Eastman

Gentlemen:

Enclosed are letters from the six clubs of the Negro National League in which they answer the questions which you instructed me to have answered and forwarded to you.

They are as brief as possible as you requested. I talked over the telephone to every one of our club owners, told them of our meeting on March 6, 1943 with you and the reasons you requested these answers. I also told them to outline their training schedule to me so that I could inform your office of the mileage cut off in training alone.

Due to financial difficulties through the years of depression, we found it necessary to transplant the Nashville Elites to Baltimore, Md. We combined the St. Louis Stars and the New York Black Yankees with home grounds in New York City.

The owner of the Baltimore club is our President, lives at Nashville, Tenn. and practically all of his players live near Nashville. That is the reason Baltimore is training at Nashville, Tenn.

The winter quarters of the New York Black Yankees is at Mounds, Ill. They keep their bus at Mounds during the off season.

Spring Training

Baltimore trained at New Orleans in 1942 and played throughout Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama during their training period, which extended from April 1st until May 9th, the start of our League season. In 1943 Baltimore will train at Nashville, Tenn. and play all training games within a radius of 100 miles, using day coaches for their games at Memphis and Birmingham. They will cut off four-fifths of their 1942 training trip bus mileage.

The Philadelphia Stars trained at Philadelphia in 1942 and will train there again in 1943.

The Homestead Grays trained at Raleigh, N.C. in 1942 and travelled through N. C., Va., Ga., Miss., La., Tenn., Ky., Ohio and Pa. In

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1943 the Grays will train at Akron, Ohio and play near Akron and Pittsburgh until the start of the League season with the lone exception of April 25 at Griffith Stadium at Washington, D. C. The Grays did not get their new bus until May 1, 1942. The training trip mileage will be out over two thirds.

The New York Cubans trained in Florida in 1942. In 1943 they will train with the Philadelphia Stars at Philadelphia, cutting off approximately 4000 miles.

The Newark Eagles trained at Winston Salem, N.C. in 1942 and played throughout the Southern states. They will train in New Jersey in 1943. The New York Black Yankees trained at Memphis, Tenn. in 1942; they covered over five thousand miles on their training trip. In 1943 they will train at Columbia University grounds in New York City.

That accounts for the spring training which will start on April 15, 1943.

League Schedule

It is difficult for us to place before you a 1943 schedule of the Negro National League as we must wait until the clubs of white organized baseball issue all their schedules. We use the parks of white organized baseball for most of our league games.

Mr. Gottlieb and myself have gone over a tentative schedule, using the 1943 schedules of the National, American and International Leagues as a base. We find we can cut our League schedule mileage to less than one half by keeping the opposing clubs in the same league city for two and three days instead of one and by using day coaches between the cities of New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., except on Saturday and Sundays when railroad traffic is so great.

We will have a little difficulty with the New York Black Yankees and the New York Cubans as they both use the Yankee Stadium for home games, so we have to transfer some of those two clubs league games in cities like Albany, Harrisburg, Buffalo and in some cases Newport News, Portsmouth and Richmond, Va. When league games are in Virginia we cover the four cities on the same trip. That happens about twice a season.

Homestead Grays play their league games in the cities of Eastern, Ohio when Forbes Field, Pittsburgh and Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C., are not available.

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The club owners were all willing to turn their busses over to the O.D.T. from September 15 to April 15.

We have built our league through 25 years of steady work. We have never had a breath of scandal attached to any of our games. Each club plays approximately sixty exhibition games each season. These games are close to our league cities but railroad and hotel accommodations are not available after our games, mostly night games, even though in some cases the games are but fifteen miles from our hotels. I explained the Washington, D.C. hotel situation to you.

We are now recognized as the Major league of Negro baseball by the public, both colored and white.

We have made preliminary plans to start operating on April 15th.

I wish to thank you for all the clubs in our league and the players too, for the consideration we have received from your office.

All the clubs are anxiously awaiting your answer.

If necessary I can come to Washington, D.C. at any time to answer any further questions.

Yours respectfully,

C. W. POSEY
Secretary
Negro National Baseball League